

## **Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council**

Meeting Number 134 (9-13)

September 9, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 134 was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Local council members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Betty Byrne, Vince Rabenau, Ron Sollod and Yvonne Baldwin. Members absent were James B. Lyons III and Bob Frisch. Doris Carey moved and Betty Byrne seconded that the June minutes be approved. Chairperson Mullis welcomed special guest Matt Minson, Office of the Comptroller, State of Maryland; Delegate Glen Glass, Delegate Rick Impallaria; Lydia R. Brennan, Legislative Aide to Council Member Guthrie; and Andrew Tress, Legislative Aide to Council President Billy Boniface. Paula offered a special acknowledgement of Captain Krass, Southern Precinct Commander of the Sheriff's Office; Fran Salbeck, committee member of the Save the Joppatowne Pool Committee; and Councilman Dion Guthrie.

### **Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report**

Captain Krass reported that the Southern Precinct continues to focus on crime in the area and has a unit dedicated to addressing the violence in the Edgewood area this summer. He stated that he appreciated the walk-through that county officials did in the Edgewood area recently. Community members expressed concerns that young people from Edgewood have been using the basketball court at Riverside Elementary School and have been intimidating local homeowners. Capt. Krass stated that misbehavior should be reported to the Sheriff's Office. He also said that anyone can use a school's basketball court, because it is public property.

### **Matt Minson – Office of the Comptroller – State of Maryland**

Mr. Minson shared information from the State Comptroller's Office that is of interest to constituents. The Comptroller advocates filing tax returns on line. It is now possible to have your tax refunds deposited in your bank account from the Comptroller's Office. Another ongoing project is finding the rightful owner of unclaimed property. The Comptroller's Office will be conducting round table discussions for interested constituents. If community members are interested in being a part of these discussions, they are requested to get in touch with Matt Minson at the Comptroller's Office. Mr. Minson was thanked for his presentation by Paula Mullis.

### **County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie**

Councilman Guthrie was asked by the Chair to give a brief update on the carnival and parade. The councilman stated that the carnival was not as big a success as it was last year, because of unfavorable weather. It rained several days. The parade was not as large as the year before either. The weather was extremely warm. However, all expenses for the event were covered. The band that performed after the carnival did an outstanding job. When asked about the Plecker's property, Dion mentioned that buildings are being torn down

and the property is being cleared. What is being done at the property is unclear. He would like the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company to have the property, because they need more space. Dion also mentioned that Rumsey Island Bridge had a lot of mildew and chipped paint. The bridge was power washed, rewired and painted and is now back to normal. He also mentioned he is filing a law suit against the public school system on their pay-to-play policy. He would also like them to reverse their policy on charging students for extra-curricular activities and rerouting school busses. There seems to be a lot of support from parents concerning these issues. There are also lawyers who are offering pro bono services.

### **Fran Salbeck – Presentation on Save the Joppatowne Pool**

Fran Salbeck, committee member, shared a packet with community members asking for support in saving the Joppatowne pool. She stated that the community is in jeopardy of losing the only green space available within the community. Committee members hoped that Harford County can purchase the property at 512 Joppa Farm Road that is up for sale. Salbeck said that the committee is putting forth a lot of energy and effort for the purpose of saving the pool. She said this is the last opportunity to acquire land in Joppatowne for a future recreation center. Local council member Gloria Moon stated that the project would be in line with the community's successful efforts to stop the county from building a waste transfer station on the site of the former Plecker golf facility. Gloria also offered a motion stating that the local council members support the committee on saving the Joppatowne pool. The vote was five yes and 2 no. Chairperson Mullis thanked the committee members for their work.

Delegate Rick Impallaria and Delegate Glen Glass shared information concerning what has been going on in Annapolis since the last legislative session. They both said they are working hard for their constituents.

### **Community Updates from Community Members and local Council Members**

Local council member, Ron Sollod, shared a booklet on how to prepare for emergencies. He invited community members to the Joppa-Magnolia Fire Company open house. He also reminded everyone about fire safety: make sure flues are open, watch burning candles, and be aware of kitchen safety. Vincent Rabenau shared the latest information about a meeting in July with Trinity Church to discuss the I-95 Section 200 project. The MDTA representatives stated that they wanted nothing to do with the church's land. However, the new plan looks like the MDTA will take all of the church's land. Doris Carey reported that HCC continues to have the lowest tuition costs of the community colleges in Maryland. Groundbreaking was held in the past week for the new nurses allied health building and work is continuing on the Towson University building. Betty Byrne mentioned that every Wednesday night is bingo night at the Joppa-Magnolia firehouse. Paula Mullis thanked everyone for coming out to the monthly meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Doris Carey, Secretary